



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Michael R. Pence, Governor
Karl B. Browning, Commissioner

The Indiana Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 20, 2014, at the Goshen High School Auditorium, 401 Lincolnway East, Goshen, Indiana 46526. Doors will open at 5:30pm for an informal Open House session with the formal Public Hearing beginning at 6:00pm.

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment identifying the preferred Northern Connector alternative for the proposed construction of US 33 (Madison Street) on new alignment between Monroe Street and SR 15 (Main Street) in the City of Goshen, located in Elkhart County. The proposed project involves construction of approximately one mile of two-lane roadway on new alignment of which approximately 2,000 feet will be elevated. Beginning just north of the US 33/Sander Avenue intersection, the new alignment would diverge from the existing alignment at Monroe Street and run northerly across Madison Street and Jefferson Street. From that point it would turn northwesterly and parallel the Norfolk Southern Marion Branch railroad tracks until turning westerly, following Pike Street to its intersection with Main Street (SR 15), where it would rejoin existing US 33. The project will provide overpasses of Cottage Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and the Northfolk Southern Marion Branch railroad spur which runs north-south along the east side of 9th Street. Improvements are proposed at the US 33 intersections with Main Street, 5th Street/Pike Street, Madison Street and Monroe Street. The elevated roadway section is between 10th Street and 7th Street. Short connector roadways will be provided to link Clinton Street with 7th Street, and to link Washington Street with 10th Street. Even though an overpass would be provided over the Norfolk Southern Marion Branch railroad spur, the 9th Street crossing of the railroad would be closed. An at-grade multi-use trail is proposed along the southerly/westerly side of the proposed new roadway, between 5th Street and **Madison** Street. Construction of the project would require approximately 26.0 acres of new permanent right-of-way as well as the displacement of 31 residential buildings and five businesses relocations.

The tentative timetables for right-of-way acquisition and construction will be discussed during the formal presentation. Public statements for the record will be taken after the presentation. Individuals interested in participating in the public statement session may sign the speaker's schedule prior to the presentation.

All comments collected before, during and for a period of two (2) weeks after the hearing will be evaluated and addressed in the final environmental document. The preliminary plans will be available for anyone interested in talking to the engineers about the project before and after the formal presentation. Conversations will not be part of the official record.

With advance notice INDOT can make special accommodations for persons with disabilities and/or limited English speaking ability (Spanish interpreters will be available), and persons needing auxiliary aids or services of interpreters, signers, readers, or large print. If special accommodations are needed please call the Public Hearings office at (317) 232-6601, by Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

The environmental document and preliminary design plans along with other materials on the project are available for viewing in the following offices:

1. Hearings Examiner, Room N642, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2216, Phone # (317) 234-0796
2. Planning & Programming Department, Indiana Department of Transportation Fort Wayne District office at, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808, Phone # (866) 227-3555
3. Goshen Public Library, 601 South 5th Street, Goshen, Indiana 46526
Phone # (574) 533-9531

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) states: “Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program.” 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: “Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary.”, approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on August 16, 2012. INDOT, Rickie Clark, Office of Public Involvement, Phone # (317) 232-6601, E-Mail: rclark@indot.IN.gov